

REMARKS

A telephone conference between the Examiner and Arthur Ortega (one of the applicant's undersigned attorneys) was held on January 3, 2007. The applicant and Mr. Ortega wish to thank the Examiner for his time and consideration for such conference.

Claims 3, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-11, 13 and 15-22 are pending.

Claims 3, 19, 21 and 22 were objected to for various informalities. Claims 3, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6, 9 and 15-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Orbay (6,706,046). The Examiner noted that the Orbay reference can be overcome by filing a certified translation of the priority document of the present application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.55 (§MPEP 201.15). Moreover, as discussed during the above teleconference, the Examiner indicated that submission of the certified translation of the priority document would overcome the rejection.

Applicants submit a certified translation of the priority document of the present application (DE 202 13 166 U1) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.55 (§MPEP 201.15). The priority document is a German priority document with a priority date of August 28, 2002 which is before the filing date of the Orbay reference which is December 10, 2002. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

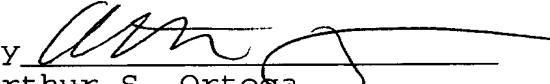
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: January 29, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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